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**From:** Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan <do\_not\_reply@tre.state.ma.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 8:00 PM  
**To:** Hanchett, James (DPH)  
**Subject:** SMART NEWS E-bulletin: News and Tips from Massachusetts Deferred Compensation Plan

# SMART NEWS

## A Bi-monthly e-bulletin of the Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan

### Highlights of this issue include:

- [Message from the Director, Deferred Compensation](#)
- [Plan Participant Testimonial](#)
- [Join the SMART Plan: Online Access](#)
- [Tips and Approaches](#)
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### Message from the Director, Deferred Compensation

Welcome to the first edition of SMART NEWS: a bi-monthly e-news bulletin for SMART Plan members and eligible participants. We are proud to offer this important tool to provide you with an easy and effective way to stay connected with the most up-to-date information necessary to assist you in planning for your retirement income.

As a fellow public employee, I know the challenges of balancing a household budget while planning for retirement. A retirement goal of 70 to 80 percent of your current salary would be a great accomplishment for your defined benefit pension. My question is, why stop there? With the Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan, you can put the power of pre-tax savings and low-cost investing to work for you.

Enrolling in the Plan is quick and easy with our new on-line enrollment feature. Please visit <http://www.mass.gov/smartplan> to enroll or call 877-457-1900 to speak with a SMART Plan Representative. Our representatives are available to assist you with any questions you may have.

By participating in the SMART Plan, you will create a supplemental stream of income to compliment your defined benefit pension income. This additional retirement income could be the difference between retiring at 70% or 80% of your salary or retiring with a combined income stream of 90% to 100% or more of your salary.

If you are among the nearly 300,000 enrolled members, we congratulate you for helping to make the Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan a tremendous success among state and municipal employees. If you are thinking of joining the Plan please note that no amount is too small. You will never look back and say, I saved too much.

As we continue to develop and improve our plan outreach and communication, we will continue to provide the same outstanding customer service as in the past.

**David Lynch**

### Plan Participant Testimonial

In this issue we feature Donna, a SMART Plan member and employee at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

***"Because of SMART Plan, I am going to be able to live more comfortably when I retire than I ever imagined. Start saving early to enjoy your future."***

**Donna from OCME**

### Join the Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan today!

Whether you've been employed for years or are a new state or municipal employee, put the Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan to work for you. Enroll online today at [www.mass-smart.com](http://www.mass-smart.com), or call 877-457-1900 to speak with a Plan Representative.

### Online Access /Updates

Checked your SMART Plan account online lately? If not, we encourage you to access your account at ([www.mass-smart.com](http://www.mass-smart.com)) and review your investment options. While online, take a moment to review all the planning resources available to you through your online account.

### Tips and Approaches

Starting or Managing your SMART Plan account:  
*"Getting Retirement Fit": Retirement Planning in Focus*

- [Assess and Update Your Current Portfolio](#). Is your portfolio well-balanced and diverse? Does it reflect an appropriate asset blend of stocks, bonds and cash? By carefully studying your existing financial situation, you will be able to make decisions about how much money you need to save or how to continue to grow your investment.
- [Ask yourself how you want to live](#). Will you be able to do the things you dreamed of doing? Is your desire to tour the Grand Canyon? Or visit Australia? Answering these questions will help you determine how best to invest and allocate your resources to help achieve your goals.
- [Think Ahead! Anticipate the tough issues](#). The number one expense many people will face in retirement is health care, including emergency and long-term care. By planning ahead, you can make sure that you put a plan in place to take care of you and your family.
- [Start investing early](#). Is achieving a comfortable level of income at retirement important to you? It is never too late to start investing in your retirement. The earlier you begin saving for your retirement, the better it will be to maintain your *current* standard of living in retirement.

Look for future testimonials from Plan members in upcoming issues of SMART NEWS. If you are an active SMART Plan member and wish to take part in future Plan Participant Testimonials, contact the SMART Plan Administration at [smartplan@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:smartplan@tre.state.ma.us).

### Feedback - We want to hear from you!

We would love to know what you think! Share your story. Please let us know if you have any comments or questions about any of these articles or the bulletin in general. Email your comments or questions to [smartplan@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:smartplan@tre.state.ma.us)

Please forward this bulletin to anyone who might be interested in receiving this or may have been omitted from this mailing.

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<http://www.mass.gov/smartplan/forms/smart-plan-enevs-jul-2011.pdf>

